ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION (IRELAND).

THE ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for *Ireland* to the Lord Lieutenant, for the Year ending 1 August 1847.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY GEORGE WILLIAM FREDERICK,
EARL OF CLARENDON,
LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND.

WE, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for Ireland, whose hands and corporate seal are hereunto annexed, in reporting to your Excellency the proceedings of the Commissioners for the year ending the 1st of August instant, pursuant to the provisions of the Act 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 37, beg leave to state, that by an instrument in writing under their seal, the Commissioners, with the consent of the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council, and with the consent of the Bishop of Tuam, have declared that the College and Collegiate Church of Galway shall be dissolved upon the death or resignation of the present Warden; and that the Rectories and Vicarages, now constituting the Wardenship, shall be divided into four separate and distinct Benefices, pursuant to the provisions of the Act 3 & 4 Vict. c. 108, and agreeably to the scheme of dissolution approved of by all parties. The Commissioners have not been able, as directed by the Act, to offer for sale the Advowsons, or right of presentation, of the four Benefices into which the Wardenship has been divided, it having become necessary that an Abstract of Title should be previously prepared and evidenced, and the conditions of sale settled, under the advice of counsel, the procuring of information for which caused much delay; but these matters having been satisfactorily arranged, it only remains to fix the time and place that may be considered most advantageous for the sale.

In respect to the Advowson of the united Parishes of Kilkulbkeen, Muckalla, and Rathpatrick, belonging to the Corporation of Waterford, in the Diocese of Ossory, the Commissioners have, since the date of their last Report, executed the deed of sale of this Advowson to Mr. Henry Denny, as also the deed of sale of the Advowson of the Benefice of Drumcondra, belonging to the Corporation of Dublin, to Benjamin Bowen Johnston, Esq., pursuant to the provisions of the Act 3 & 4 Vict. c. 108.

By the Returns of Promotions, and otherwise, it appears that fourteen Dignities, thirteen Prebends, and sixty-one Parochial Benefices have become vacant within the year, of which twenty are liable to tax, and the rest are not liable.

In respect to the Dignities and Prebends, the Lord Lieutenant and the Privy Council have, on the recommendation of the Commissioners, suspended the appointment of Clerks to the Deanery of Clonmacnoise, in the Diocese of Meath, of the value of 73*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*, and to the Prebend of Lackeen, in the Cathedral Church of Cloyne, of the annual value of 23*l.* 5*s.*, both in the gift of the respective Diocesans of Meath and Cloyne. With respect to the Archdeaconries of Killala and Clonfert, although it did not appear that either of them had cure of souls annexed, the Commissioners, on the representations made to them by the Diocesans, forbore, as on a former occasion, to make any recommendation, but submitted the communications they had received in

 both

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both cases to the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council, to be dealt with as to them might seem fit under the circumstances.

The Prebend of Killenellick, belonging to the Cathedral Church of Emly, having become vacant by the death of the Rev. John Whitty, and having been duly notified by the Commissioners, the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council, by Order dated the 15th of February last, have, on the recommendation of the Bishop of Cashel and Waterford, disappropriated therefrom the Rectory of Ballingarry, and the Rectory and Vicarage of Ballinloudry, and erected same into a separate and distinct Benefice, of the annual value of about 400 *l.*, and directed same to be called the Parish or Benefice of Ballinloudry, in which parish a Church is now erecting in Ballinloudry Village, at private expense; and the said Order in Council further directs that the Vicarage of Galbally alone, of the annual value of 475 *l.*, shall constitute the new corps of Killenellick Prebend.

By an Order in Council of the 16th day of March last, on the vacancy reported by the Commissioners to have occurred in the Prebend of Glanore, *alias* Glanworth, belonging to the Cathedral Church of St. Colman's, Cloyne, the Parishes of Derryvillane, Kilgallane, and Ballydeloughy, of the annual value of 294 *l.* 16 *s.* 10 *d.*, have been disappropriated from that Prebend and transferred to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, leaving the future corps of this Prebend to consist of the Parish of Glanworth, of the annual value of about 600 *l.*, in which parish there is a Church and Glebe-house; and a subsequent Order in Council directs that the charge of 1,523 *l.* 1 *s.* 6 ½ *d.* subsisting on the Benefices forming the corps of the Prebend, on the last avoidance, for Buildings and Improvements, should be distributed, and 1,000 *l.* continue to be a charge on the Prebend and Benefice of Glanworth, and the residue of 523 *l.* 1 *s.* 6 ½ *d.* be charged on the disappropriated parishes of Derryvillane, Kilgallane, and Ballydeloughy. The occasional duties of these parishes have been committed, on the nomination of the Diocesan, to the Incumbent of the adjoining parish, at a moderate stipend.

The Prebend of Clashmore, belonging to the Cathedral Church of Lismore, of the value of 98 *l.* 2 *s.* 3 *d.* per annum, having been reported by the Diocesan to have become vacant by the cession of the Rev. William Mackesy, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, by an Instrument under their corporate seal, bearing date the 25th of June last, recommended to the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council that the appointment of a Clerk should be suspended, as it did not appear that there was cure of souls in any parish forming the corps of this Prebend, but as doubts have been entertained as to a vacancy in the Prebend, the Commissioners have caused the subject to be brought under the Diocesan's notice.

By an Order in Council of the 17th of April last, the suspension of the appointment of a Clerk to the Precentorship of the Cathedral Church of Elphin has been removed, and its revenues, which formed part of the funds of the Commissioners since the last avoidance in 1835, have been disappropriated, and the Rectories of Shankill, Kilmacumsey, and Creeve, of the annual value of 103 *l.* 15 *s.* 5 *d.*, have been annexed to their respective Vicarages, and the residue of the emoluments, amounting to 57 *l.* 15 *s.* 9 *d.*, transferred to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners; and authority has been given for the appointment of a Clerk to the Precentorship of Elphin, subject to the severance of its emoluments.

The sinecure Rectory of Castlane, *alias* Whitechurch, in the Diocese of Ossory, and in the gift of the Crown, having become vacant by the demise of the Rev. Thomas Maunsell, the Commissioners, by an Instrument under their corporate seal, bearing date the 23d of December last, recommended the appointment of a Clerk to be suspended, but at the same time directed that a communication received from the Commissary of the Bishop, urging that the appointment, under the circumstances of the case, should not be suspended, should be transmitted for the information of the Lord Lieutenant and the Council, of the result of which they have not yet been informed.

Under the 116th section of the 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 37, the Commissioners have suspended the appointment of a Clerk to the Benefice of Kilbroderan, in the Diocese of Limerick, of the annual value of 171 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.*, it appearing by the certificate of the Ordinary, that Divine Service had not been celebrated within the Benefice for the three years preceding February 1833, and provision

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provision has been made for the discharge of the occasional duties of the Parish by committing them, on the nomination of the Bishop's Commissary, to the curate of the adjoining parish, as it did not appear that the spiritual wants of this Benefice required the appointment of a Curate, to be licensed for the purpose.

Of the 24 churches mentioned in the last Report to have been in progress of rebuilding, we have the gratification to state that 11 have since been completed for the celebration of Divine Service, namely, the Church of Dromore, in Clogher Diocese, for the accommodation of 800 persons; Ardkeen, in Down Diocese, for 220; Kenawley Church, in Kilmore Diocese, for 360 persons; Ballycuslane Church, in Ardfert Diocese, for 160; Carnew, in Ferns Diocese, for 600; Kilcommon, in Killala Diocese, for 80; Shanrahan, in Lismore Diocese, for 300; Kilmurry, in Cork Diocese, for 120; Tynagh, in Clonfert Diocese, for 90 persons; Kilmacrennan, in Raphoe Diocese, for 210; and Drumminlly, in Clogher Diocese, for 320.

The liberal aid received in the way of contributions of 400*l.* in the case of Dromore rebuilding, 500*l.* in that of Carnew, and 300*l.* in the case of Shanrahan, has been noticed in former Reports; and we have further to observe, that the Parish Church of Clonsillagh, in Dublin Diocese, has been re-erected for the accommodation of 200 persons, under the superintendence of the Architect of the Board, at a cost of about 1,700*l.*, which was principally raised by private subscriptions, the Commissioners providing a sum of 500*l.* towards the completion of so desirable a work. The Church of Kilmurry, in Cork Diocese, before mentioned, has also been erected at an expense of 527*l.*, of which 274*l.* was raised by subscriptions, and the residue of 253*l.* provided by the Commissioners; this parish is greatly indebted to his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, not merely for his contribution to the erection of the Church, but for providing an Endowment for the Incumbent, which did not exist before.

The Churches at present in course of rebuilding are those of Finner, in Clogher Diocese; Lusk, in Dublin Diocese; Killery, in Ardagh Diocese; the four Churches of Ballymodan, Ballymoney, St. Nicholas, and Ardfield, in Cork Diocese; Kinnitty, in Killaloe Diocese, and Kilmanagh, in Ossory Diocese; but no part of the monies set apart for the rebuilding of the Churches of Ballyhalbert and White Church, in Down Diocese; Ballinderry, in Armagh Diocese; Moville Upper, in Derry Diocese; Lismalin, in Cashel Diocese; Croagh, in Limerick Diocese, and Kilcolgon, in Kilmacduagh Diocese, has been as yet applied to these several objects from delays occasioned by procuring new sites, and from other unavoidable causes.

The sum appropriated to Church Works for the past year amounted to 21,887*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, of which 5,331*l.* has been set apart towards the completion of some and for the commencement of others of the rebuildings before-mentioned; 2,000*l.* has been appropriated to the external painting of the Churches in the south and west of Ireland, 1,000*l.* for maintaining the enclosing fences of Churches, 180*l.* for the erection of stoves and bells provided at the expense of the parishioners, and the residue of 13,376*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* has been appropriated to the absolutely necessary repairs of Churches, with the exception of 20*l.*, granted under peculiar circumstances, to aid in the erection of a gallery in Julianstown Church, in Meath Diocese, the parishioners providing the remainder of the sum required for that purpose.

The statements which the Commissioners receive of the improved condition of the Churches generally throughout Ireland, not only through the medium of their officers, but also by means of the reports made to the Archbishops and Bishops at their annual visitations, continue to be very satisfactory as regards the state of their repair; but the Commissioners think it right to observe, that they have before them a great number of applications for rebuilding, enlargement, internal colouring, and painting, many of which are of a pressing nature, and which they have been unable to attend to from the present state of their funds.

The following Churches, erected altogether by private subscriptions, have been taken under the charge of the Commissioners; viz. Sallaghy Church, in Clogher Diocese, for the accommodation of 222 persons; Altedesert, for 160; Drumnakilly, for 213; and Carlingford Chapel of Ease, for 110 persons, in the Diocese of Armagh.

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A large building, which had been converted, at considerable private expense, into a Church for the use of the parishioners of Corbally Parish, in the Diocese of Killaloe, has also been taken under charge of the Commissioners. This Parish, the Tithes of which are wholly impropriate, has heretofore been without any provision for an Incumbent; but through the liberality of J. D. Hutchinson, Esq., an Endowment has been created, and an augmentation thereto granted by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for the support of a Minister, under whose charge, it appears, there are at present 600 Members of the Established Church.

The Commissioners have not been able to proceed with the rebuilding of Drumcanuon Church, in the Diocese of Waterford, for which, as stated in the last Report, a sum of 2,000 *l.* had been appropriated out of the Impropriate Tithes of Cahir Parish, as the legal proceedings consequent upon an enlargement of the site for the Church have not been as yet completed. The emoluments arising from the Cahir Tithes, form a trust fund of which the Commissioners are appointed Trustees, by an order of the Court of Chancery, and are made applicable to particular purposes, with the consent of the Bishop of Cashel and Waterford; and at his Lordship's suggestion, a further sum of 851 *l.* 9 *s.* 4 *d.* has been this year set apart out of these Tithes for rebuilding this Church on a more extensive plan, so soon as the additional site shall be duly conveyed to the parishioners.

The Bequest granted by the late Primate Boulter for the augmentation of Small Livings has been increased by a principal sum of 1,935 *l.* within the year, by means of a bonus granted by the Governors of the Bank of Ireland, on the Bank Stock standing to the credit of this fund. This sum has been since invested in Government Securities, the interest of which money, as well as the interest of a principal sum of 479 *l.* 14 *s.* 10 *d.*, the amount of certain Turnpike Debentures lately paid off, and which constituted part of the same fund, will be applicable to augmentation purposes. In consequence of a reduction some few years since in the rate of interest on Bank Stock, the Commissioners had been obliged in some instances to reduce the amounts of augmentation, which necessity they hope will now no longer exist.

In addition to the monies stated in the Report for the year ending 1st August 1845, to have been set apart for augmentation purposes, under the provisions of the Act 3 & 4 Vict. c. 101, s. 6, we have to report that a further sum of 500 *l.* has been allocated for the like purposes out of the monies to accrue from Tithes disappropriated and transferred to the Commissioners by order of the Lord Lieutenant and the Council, and which, with the co-operation of the respective Diocesans, will be distributed in augmenting Small Benefices so soon as the funds can be made available for the purpose.

Owing to the prevailing distress, the Commissioners have experienced much difficulty in the collection of their annual income, which is of a peculiar nature, arising not only from rents and rentcharges in lieu of Tithes, the tax on Ecclesiastical Benefices and Glebe House Instalments, payable by the Clergy, but also from fines received from tenants on the renewal of their leases, the receipts from which latter source have fallen far short of those of former years. The difficulty represented by the Clergy in the collection of their incomes has induced the Commissioners to grant indulgences in many instances, and to extend the time for payment in all where it appeared that the profits of the Benefice had not been received. None of the tenants who applied within the year for the purchase of their perpetuities have as yet completed their purchases; and indulgences in respect to the payment of rents, and temporary abatements have been granted by the Commissioners to several of their tenants, all which have more or less affected their annual receipts.

In consequence of the numerous applications received for contributions to the relief of the suffering poor from local committees of towns, and other impoverished districts within which the Commissioners are the immediate landlords, small advances of money have been made from time to time under the advice of the Attorney-General, to aid the local subscriptions raised in those places for that purpose.

By the death of the late Bishop of Kildare, the Temporalities of that See, together with all and singular the emoluments of the Preceptory of Tully and Deanery of Christ Church, heretofore held in commendam by the Bishops of Kildare, have become vested in the Commissioners, and necessary steps have been

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been taken under the provisions of the Statute for letting the undemised Mensal Lands. Those belonging to the Deanery of Christ's Church were valued by a competent person, and offered to public competition, and proposals having been received from Messrs. Dunne, Lindsay & Hawkins, which appeared fully adequate, were accepted by the Commissioners, and the particulars of these proposals having been submitted to and approved of by Your Excellency, leases have been directed to be prepared accordingly.

With respect to the Mensal Lands of Kildare, which were found to be in the occupation of persons to whom they had been let during the incumbency of the late Bishop, the Commissioners did not deem it expedient to make any change, as they had received from the agent of the late Bishop favourable accounts of the character and solvency of the several occupiers, who have been permitted to hold these lands on the same terms as they were held in the Bishop's lifetime.

Under the head of Perpetuity Purchases, a sum to the amount of 9,005*l.* 16*s.*, arising from the sales of former years, has been received, and mortgages have been granted to the amount of 2,514*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*; the money received has been applied towards the payment of an instalment of 10,000*l.* to the Board of Public Works in further liquidation of the 100,000*l.* advanced by that Board to the Commissioners. The number of applications for purchase, within the year, has been 19, but no part of the purchase-money in these cases has been as yet received.

In order to make good the deficiencies in the incomes of the Bishops of Cork and Kilmore, pursuant to the provisions of the Acts 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 37, and 6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 99, the sum of 1,500*l.* has been paid to the Bishop of Cork, and 100*l.* to the Bishop of Kilmore; and the interest on the building charge of Kilmore House, amounting to 688*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*, has also been paid to the Bishop of Kilmore under the provisions of the Act 6 & 7 Vict. c. 57, in lieu of the maintenance heretofore provided by Vestry Assessment for the Curates of the City of Dublin; and in discharge of the Salaries of the Curates of Suspended Benefices, Vicars Choral, and Diocesan's Schoolmasters, the sum of 5,723*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.* has been paid. And in addition to the Augmentation Salaries granted out of Primate Boulter's Bequest, a sum of 962*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.* has been paid in augmenting small Benefices from and out of the Tithes disappropriated by the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council, and transferred to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners under the provisions of the Act 3 & 4 Vict. c. 101, thereby making the total payments made for these several purposes within the year amount to 8,974*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*, exclusive of the sums paid for the salaries of Parish Clerks and Sextons, and for providing requisites for the celebration of Divine Service in the several Churches and Chapels, which have amounted within the year to 34,807*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*

An account of the Receipts and Disbursements of the Commissioners to the 1st instant is annexed to this Report, showing the sources from whence the Receipts have arisen, and the specific purposes to which they have been applied.

All which is submitted to your Excellency's consideration.

(signed) JOHN G. ARMAGH.
R^D DUBLIN.
EDWARD MEATH.
R. DERRY and RAPHOE.
J. T. OSSORY and FERNS.
HEN. MEREDYTH.
JOHN C. ERCK.
W^M C. QUIN.

Seal.

Board-Room, 24, Upper Merrion-street,
13 August 1847.

(signed) *Thos. Bushe*, Secretary.

(A true Copy.)
Thos. Bushe, Secretary.

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AN ACCOUNT by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for *Ireland* of the Receipts and Disbursements been derived, and showing the Total Amount derived from each Source,

RECEIPTS:	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Balance in General Fund, 1st August 1846	6,776 14 11	
Ditto in Perpetuity Purchase Fund ditto	– – – ½	6,779 14 11 ½
Received from Waterford and Lismore see estates	3,377 12 5	
— Killala and Achonry, ditto	2,986 5 11	
— Clonfert and Kilmacduagh, ditto	1,134 3 9	
— Raphoe, ditto	4,654 5 11	
— Ossory, ditto	2,248 1 3	
— Cork and Ross, ditto	2,904 7 11	
— Ardagh, ditto	2,956 14 –	
— Elphin, ditto	4,651 17 3	
— Dromore, ditto	4,518 3 3	
— Kildare see estate and deanery of Christ Church	2,906 13 10	32,638 5 6
— Raphoe demesne timber, third instalment	– – –	106 – –
— Suspended dignities and benefices, and disappropriated tithes, &c.	– – –	11,531 1 10
— Charge on the see of Derry	– – –	4,354 7 5
— Tax on bishoprieks and benefices	– – –	7,541 14 7
— Glebe-house loan instalments	– – –	2,811 11 2
— Sales of perpetuities	9,005 16 1	
— Perpetuity mortgages paid off	5,908 1 2	14,913 17 3
— Interest on Three per Cent. Consols and Three-and-a-quarter per Cent. Stock	– – –	1,867 6 2
— Ditto on perpetuity mortgages	– – –	2,202 15 4
— Monies deposited to defray expense in ascertaining terms of perpetuities	– – –	17 6 4
— Sales of perpetuity printed forms	– – –	4 19 –
— Ditto of Three per Cent. Consols	16,289 5 –	
— Ditto of Three-and-a-quarter per Cent. Stock	6,814 8 1	17,103 13 1
— Contributions from Economy Funds for repairs of cathedrals	– – –	– 6 5
— Private subscriptions for rebuilding and enlarging churches	1,363 11 9	
— Ditto of stoves and repairs of ditto	179 – –	
— Ditto of church requisites	3 7 6	1,545 19 3
— Monies granted for church purposes, and returned unapplied	56 5 1	
— Ditto granted to committees for the relief of the poor, and returned	5 – –	61 5 1
	£.	103,474 6 4 ½

PRIMATE BOULTER'S AND PRIMATE ROBINSON'S FUNDS.

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Balance in Primate Boulter's Fund, 31st July 1846	1,742 12 6	
Ditto in Primate Robinson's ditto	40 15 4	1,783 7 10
Received on account of Primate Boulter's Fund, to 31 July 1847	6,630 6 10	
Ditto on account of Primate Robinson's ditto	20 7 8	6,656 14 6
	£.	8,446 2 4

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for One Year, ending the 1st day of August 1847; distinguishing the specific Sources from which all Monies have and the specific Purposes to which the Receipts have been applied.

DISBURSEMENTS:	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
For rebuilding churches under grants made in this and preceding years	9,214 15 7	
– Enlarging churches	100 – –	
– Repairs of churches	17,100 6 5	
– Extraordinary repairs of churches	631 3 11	
		27,046 5 11
– Requisites for the celebration of Divine Service granted on yearly estimates	34,807 18 1	
– Bibles, Prayer Books, and registry books	242 5 9	
		35,050 3 10
– Payments to Bishop of Cork	1,500 – –	
– Ditto to Bishop of Kilmore	100 – –	
– Interest on the building charge on Kilmore House to ditto, under 6 & 7 Vict. c. 57	688 – 16	
– Stipends to Dublin curates	1,902 2 3	
– Ditto to incumbents, curates, and vicars choral, &c.	3,689 1 3	
– Augmentation payments to incumbents of small benefices, under 3 & 4 Vict. c. 101	962 16 1	
– Stipends to diocesan schoolmasters	132 15 4	
		8,974 15 9
– Salaries to commissioners, secretary, treasurer, and clerks	– – –	6,516 – –
– Rents, coals, and candles, and other incidents	– – –	531 3 8
– Receipt stamps	– – –	72 – 3
– Binding Ordnance Survey	– – –	42 15 –
– Postage	– – –	190 – 1
– Fees for registering perpetuity certificates, &c.	– – –	20 10 1
– Expenses incurred in valuation of lands	– – –	57 11 9
– Rents, rent-charges, and tax abated and returned to incumbents and others	– – –	225 10 11
– Rents, taxes, and poor's-rate, &c. on suspended benefices and mensal lands	– – –	77 – 6
– Quit and Crown rents	– – –	47 19 11
– Advertising proposals for church works, &c.	– – –	74 1 6
– Stationery and printing for one year	– – –	239 14 10
– Solicitors, for personal services	1,000 – –	
– Ditto disbursements and expenses	378 4 –	
– Ditto law clerks' salaries	290 – –	
		1,668 4 –
– Payments on account of loan of 100,000*l.* to Board of Public Works	– – –	10,000 – –
– Purchase of 4,028*l.* 3 ½ per cent. stock from Perpetuity Purchase Fund	– – –	3,881 – –
– Ditto of 3,000*l.* ditto from General Fund	– – –	2,743 – 10
– Grants for relief of the poor to relief committees	– – –	200 – –
– Balance in Bank to credit of General Fund, 31st July 1847	5,626 16 –	
– Ditto - ditto - to credit of Perpetuity Purchase Fund - ditto	189 2 6 ½	
		5,815 18 6 ½
	£.	103,474 6 4 ½

PRIMATE BOULTER'S AND PRIMATE ROBINSON'S FUNDS.

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
By stipends paid in augmentation of small benefices	– – –	4,261 6 –
– Purchase of 1,600*l.* 3 ½ per cent. stock	– – –	1,461 11 3
– Balance in Primate Boulter's Fund, 31st July 1847	2,656 2 1	
– Ditto - in Primate Robinson's - - ditto	61 3 –	
		2,717 5 1
	£.	8,446 2 4

(E. E.)

(signed) *James E. Stopford*, LL.D., Treasurer.

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